DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GDC/MR
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RECORD OF SAUDI-ISRAELI ENGAGEMENTS

-- Saudi Arabia has avoided combat in Arab/Israeli conflicts, although in 1973 a Saudi brigade moving toward a reserve position in Syria was involved in a brief skirmish with Israeli forward patrols. The Saudis are believed to have suffered 10 casualties. These troops did not join the Golan Heights fighting.

-- In 1976, the Saudis withdrew the limited land forces that they had maintained in Syria and Jordan, partially to avoid entanglement in a future conflict.

-- During the October 1973 war, the Saudis sent eight Italian-made Agusta-Bell helicopters to operate in rearward areas of Egypt on logistic support missions. These helicopters, flown exclusively by Saudi pilots, were sold by the Italian firm Agusta-Bell on direct commercial contract from the Italian company to the Saudi Air Force. They did not engage in combat.